Application No.:

10/722,367

Filing Date:

November 25, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims. Only those claims being amended herein show their changes in highlighted form, where insertions appear as underlined text (e.g., <u>insertions</u>), while deletions appear as strikethrough text (e.g., <u>deletions</u>) or enclosed in double brackets (e.g., [[deletion]]).

1. (Currently Amended) A bifurcation <u>prosthesis</u> graft deployment system, comprising:

an elongate, flexible catheter body, having a proximal end and a distal end and comprising an outer sheath and an inner core that is axially moveable with respect to the outer sheath and an atraumatic distal tip coupled to the inner core and positioned adjacent the distal end of the catheter body;

a self-expanding bifurcated graft comprising a main vessel portion, a first branch vessel portion, and a second branch vessel portion;

a main vessel graft restraint comprising a first peelable cover for restraining <u>substantially</u> the entire length of the main vessel portion of the bifurcated graft;

a first branch vessel graft restraint, for restraining the first branch vessel portion of the graft; and

a second branch vessel graft restraint, for restraining the second branch vessel portion of the graft;

wherein the first peelable cover is coupled to a main branch release element, and wherein each of the bifurcated graft, main vessel graft restraint, first branch vessel graft restraint, and the second branch vessel graft restraint are positioned within the catheter body in a graft loaded condition in an orientation such that the main vessel portion is positioned nearer to the distal end of the catheter body than either the first branch vessel portion or the second branch vessel portion.

2. (**Original**) A deployment system as in Claim 1, wherein the main branch release element comprises an elongate, flexible, axially moveable release element extending through the catheter.

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3. (**Original**) A deployment system as in Claim 1, wherein the first branch vessel graft restraint comprises a first tubular sleeve.

- 4. (**Original**) A deployment system as in Claim 3, wherein the first tubular sleeve is coupled to the inner core.
- 5. (**Original**) A deployment system as in Claim 1, wherein the first branch vessel graft restraint comprises a second peelable cover.
- 6. (**Original**) A deployment system as in Claim 5, wherein the second peelable cover is attached to a first branch release element comprising an elongate, flexible, axially moveable release element also extending through the catheter.
- 7. (**Original**) A deployment system as in Claim 1, wherein the second branch vessel graft restraint comprises a tubular sleeve.
- 8. (**Original**) A deployment system as in Claim 7, wherein the tubular sleeve is attached to a second branch release element comprising an elongate, flexible, axially moveable release element.
- 9. (**Original**) A deployment system as in Claim 8, wherein the catheter is configured to enter through a first percutaneous puncture site and the second branch release element is configured to exit through a second percutaneous puncture site.
- 10. (**Currently Amended**) A deployment system for deploying a bifurcated prosthesis at the junction of a main vessel and first and second branch vessels, comprising:

a delivery catheter having an inner core, an outer sheath and a distal tip that is coupled to the inner core, the inner core being slidably engaged within the outer sheath; and

a self-expanding bifurcated prosthesis having a main body section with proximal and distal ends and being self-expandable along a substantial portion of the length thereof, and first and second branch sections at the proximal end of the main body section, each being self-expandable along a substantial portion of the length thereof[[,]];

wherein:

the main body section is held in a radially compressed state by a first peelable cover that covers substantially the entire length of the main body section, the first branch section is held in a radially compressed state within a first tubular **Application No.:** 10/722,367

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cover, and the second branch section is held in a radially compressed state within a second tubular cover[[,]]; wherein

the main body section is deployable by proximally retracting the first peelable cover; and

the compressed bifurcated prosthesis is positioned within the outer sheath such that the distal end of the bifurcated prosthesis is positioned nearer to the distal tip of the delivery catheter.

- 11. (**Original**) The deployment system of Claim 10, wherein the bifurcated prosthesis further comprises an expansion spring having an apex and first and second leg portions, wherein the leg portions are connected to respective first and second branch sections.
- 12. (**Original**) The deployment system of Claim 10, wherein the first tubular cover is a peelable cover.
- 13. (**Original**) The deployment system of Claim 10, wherein a distal end of the outer sheath includes an RO marker.
- 14. (**Original**) The deployment system of Claim 13, wherein the RO marker comprises a band of RO material.
- 15. (**Original**) The deployment system of Claim 10, further including means for marking a distal end of the outer sheath with RO material.

16-30. (Canceled)

31. (**New**) The deployment system of Claim 1, comprising a self-expanding wire support for deployment within the bifurcated graft, the wire support comprising a main component, a first branch component, and a second branch component, wherein:

the wire support is self-expandable along substantially the entire length thereof; the main component of the wire support is configured to support substantially the entire length of the main vessel portion of the graft;

the first branch component of the wire support is configured to support substantially the entire length of the first branch vessel portion of the graft; and

the second branch component of the wire support is configured to support substantially the entire length of the first branch vessel portion of the graft.

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32. (**New**) The deployment system of Claim 1, wherein the main branch release element extends proximally and is configured to withdraw the first peelable cover by proximal retraction of the main branch release element.

33. (New) The deployment system of Claim 1, wherein the main branch release element is connected to a proximal end portion of the first peelable cover and does not extend distally past the proximal end portion of the first peelable cover.

34. (New) The deployment system of Claim 1, wherein the first branch vessel graft restraint restrains substantially the entire length of the first branch vessel portion of the graft, and the second branch vessel graft restrains substantially the entire length of the second branch vessel portion of the graft.